

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ADDIS 03834 300923Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
OES-09 /073 W

-----016104 310437Z/11

R 300825Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9599

CONFIDENTIAL ADDIS ABABA 3834

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, US, ET
SUBJ: ETHIOPIAN HERALD TREATMENT OF NAMRU

REFS: A) ADDIS ABABA 3617; B) ADDIS ABABA 3660; C) STATE 216861

1. APPRECIATE PROMPT REPLY TO OUR REQUEST FOR INFORMATION
PERTAINING TO NAMRU-3 RESEARCH ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA,
1965-1977 (REFTEL C).

2. POLCOUNS DISCUSSED AUG 17 AND 18 NAMRU ARTICLES IN ETHIO-
PIAN HERALD ("NAMRU - RESEARCH CENTRE OF OFFENSIVE BIOLOGICAL
WEAPONS", REFTELS A AND B,) WITH TASSEW MAKONNEN, DEPUTY
CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AMERICAS DIVISION AUG 29. RE-
STATING OUR PRACTICE THAT WE NORMALLY ONLY COMMENTED ON
INACCURATE STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS OF THE PROVISIONAL MILI-
TARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL (PMAC OR DIRG) OR GOVERNMENT
OFFICIALS AND THAT WE IGNORED "PRIVATE" COMMENTARY IN THE
GOVERNMENT-OWNED MEDIA, HE NOTED THAT THE NAMRU ARTICLES
IN THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD APPEARED TO BE YET A DIFFERENT CATE-
GORY - A SPECIFIC ATTEMPT AT DISINFORMATION. POLCOUNS SAID
THAT AS THE ALLEGATIONS WERE SO TOTALLY FALSE THEY APPEARED
DISIGNED TO SOW FEAR OF US MEDICAL RESEARCH ACTIVITIES ON
THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF EGYPT AND THE PEOPLES' RE-
PUBLIC OF CHINA. HE QUESTIONED WHAT PURPOSE AN ETHIOPIAN,
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ADDIS 03834 300923Z

REGARDLESS OF HIS POLITICAL OUTLOOK, WOULD HAVE FOR THIS
MOTIVE AND FURTHER, WHAT PURPOSE OF THE ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION
IS SERVED BY PUBLICIZING IT. POLCOUNS CONCLUDED ON A PERSONAL
BASIS BY EXPRESSING CONCERN THAT SUCH ARTICLES MADE IT
POSSIBLE TO QUESTION WHETHER THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT WAS
FULLY IN CONTROL OF ITS MEDIA.

3. TASSEW SAID HE WAS FULLY AWARE OF WHAT NAMRU'S ACTIVITIES IN ETHIOPIA HAD ACTUALLY BEEN AND AGREED THAT THE ARTICLES WERE TOTALLY FALSE, CONTENTIOUS AND CLEARLY UNHELPFUL IN SERVING THE CAUSE OF BETTER US-ETHIOPIAN RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, THROUGH ITS PERMANENT SECRETARY, MAJOR DAWIT, WAS MAKING AN EFFORT WITH THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MEDIA TO LIMIT CRITICISM OF COUNTRIES WITH WHICH ETHIOPIA MAINTAINED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE MEANING OF "DISINFORMATION" AND AGREED THAT NO ETHIOPIAN PURPOSE WAS SERVED BY ARTICLES SUCH AS THE TWO ON AMNRU. HE NOTED THAT, UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH ARTICLES COULD STILL SLIP INTO THE MEDIA GIVEN THE PRESENT SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA. HE ASKED FOR OUR PATIENCE AND EAGERLY WELCOMED AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT ON NAMRU WHICH WE OFFERED FOR HIS USE (SUBSEQUENTLY FURNISHED BY LETTER BASED ON REFTEL C).

4. IT WOULD TAKE MORE EMPLOYEES THAN WE HAVE AND THE RESOURCES OF A SIGNIFICANT PROPORTION OF THE USG TO CORRECT EVERY MALICIOUS, INACCURATE STATEMENT IN THE GOVERNMENT-OWNED MEDIA HERE. IT WOULD ALSO BE FRUITLESS. WHEN AND IF OUR RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA EVOLVE TO A BETTER BASIS, WE BELIEVE THAT MUCH OF THE CRITICISM WILL EITHER DISAPPEAR OR BE MODERATED IN TONE. AS THE OCCASION PRESENTS ITSELF, AS IT DID IN THE CASE OF THE NAMRU ARTICLES, WE WILL QUESTION ETHIOPIAN OFFICIALS ON WHETHER THEY ARE FULLY IN CONTROL OF THEIR OWN MEDIA, SHOWING DOUBT WHEN DOUBT EXISTS, HOPING

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ADDIS 03834 300923Z

THAT ETHIOPIAN NATIONALISM AND PRIDE WILL LEAD EVENTUALLY TO THE PROPER CONCLUSIONS AND CORRECTIVE ACTION.

CHAPIN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X

Capture Date: 01 jan 1994

Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: RESEARCH, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, BIOLOGICAL WARFARE WEAPONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE

Draft Date: 30 aug 1978

Decapton Date: 01 jan 1960

Decapton Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Approved on Date:

Disposition Case Number: n/a

Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW

Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014

Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a

Disposition Reason:

Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1978ADDIS03834

Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS

Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D780355-0411

Format: TEL

From: ADDIS ABABA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978085/aaaaaeeq.tel

Line Count: 97

Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Message ID: 75f66f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a

Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a

Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: 78 ADDIS ABABA 3617, 78 ADDIS ABABA 3660, 78 STATE 216861

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 03 may 2005

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review Media Identifier:

Review Release Date: n/a

Review Release Event: n/a

Review Transfer Date:

Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 1699239

Secure: OPEN

Status: NATIVE

Subject: ETHIOPIAN HERALD TREATMENT OF NAMRU

TAGS: PEPR, US, ET, NAMRU-3

To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/75f66f61-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings:

Sheryl P. Walter

Declassified/Released

US Department of State

EO Systematic Review

20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014